

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 17055 121913Z  
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 /061 W  
-----093172 140415Z /16  
R 121725Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5840

UNCLAS ROME 17055

DEPARTMENT FOR "L" AND EUR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, IT  
SUBJ: CHURCH OF NAZARENE DISPUTE WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: A.ROME 0418 B. STATE 008323

1. TAX DISPUTE BETWEEN GENERAL BOARD OF THE CHURCH OF NAZARENE AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL A CONTINUES. REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCH IN ITALY RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT CHURCH'S ITALIAN ATTORNEY, GIACOMO ROSAPEPE, HAS ADVISED CHURCH'S AMERICAN LEADERSHIP TO SEEK THE INTERVENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

2. IN LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 6 TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IN KANSAS CITY, ROSAPEPE CLAIMS THAT IN PURSUING ITS TAX CLAIM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS VIOLATING THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN ITALY AND THE U.S. AND ITALIAN LAW NUMBER 881 OF OCTOBER 25, 1977, WHICH ROSAPEPE CLAIMS PUT INTO FORCE AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY RELATIVE TO POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS. ROSAPEPE ALSO CLAIMED IN LETTER THAT HE HASNOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN NEEDED ASSISTANCE FROM EITHER THE ITALIAN MFA OR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES CHURCH IS BEING GRANTED DUE PROCESS IN THE ITALIAN COURT SYSTEM. THE CASE IS A DIFFICULT ONE WHICH HAS BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE TANGLED WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. WITH THIS IN MIND, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE CHURCH PRESENTATIVES IF THEY REQUEST IN ORDER TO ADVISE THEM ON APPLICABILITY OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO THEIR CASE. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, TAXES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978ROME17055  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014